

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 051521Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9506

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6213

EXDIS

E.O.11652GDS

TAGS PFOR OAS

SUBJ: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 158657

FOR ASSTSECY ROGERS FROM AMB

1. I MET WITH LIEVANO LAST NIGHT PER REFTEL. THE ONLY DISCREPANCY HE HAS WITH US REGARDS THE VOTING FORMULA. LIEVANO SAYS (IN THAT REPETITIVE MANNER OF HIS) THAT THE SAN JOSE MEETING MUST FAVORABLY SETTLE THE ISSUE. OTHERWISE HE THINKS IT WILL BE ANOTHER QUITO. ANY FURTHER DELAY IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE SANCTIONS ISSUE WILL NOT PROMISE TO RESOLVE IT, WILL DISCOURAGE MANY (PRESUMABLY HE MEANT COLOMBIA AMONG THEM) AND WILL GENERALLY BE A DISASTER FOR THE OAS. HE AOAEES THAT IT WOULD BE BEST AND MOST DESIRABLE TO HAVE A STRAIGHT TWO THIRDS VOTE ON A FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION AND THAT IS WHAT WE SHOULD TRY FOR. HOWEVER, IF THAT WERE TO PROVE IMPOSSIBLLE THEN HE THINKS A MAJORITY VOTE OUGHT TO BE ACCEPTED. THE RISK OF SOME JURIDICAL OBJECTIONS IS A LESSER EVIL THAN TAKING NO ACTION AT ALL. HE DOES NOT THEREFORE AGREE THAT THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION SHOULD BE CONVOKED ONLY IF THERE IS A GUARANTEE OF A TWO THIRDS VOTE. THE ORGAN SHOULD BE CONVOKED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DO IT BY MAJORITY VOTE IF NECESSARY.

2. LIEVANO SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE US CANNOT TAKE THE LEAD. BUT, HE SAID, THE US MUST DO TWO THINGS IF ANY OF THIS

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IS TO WORK: A) THE US MUST VOTE FOR A FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION

AND B) THE US MUST HELP QUIETLY AND BEHIND THE SCENES TO GET THE
"OTHER VOTE" FOR A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY. IF WE REPEAT THE QUITO
POSTURE OF STRICT PASSIVE NEUTRALITY
HE SAYS, IT WILL BE A DIS-
ASTER FOR OUR POLICY AND THE OAS.

3. ON OTHER POINTS, LIEVANO SAID: A) HE AGREES SANCTIONS SHOULD
BE CONTINGENT UPON A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A PROTOCOL FOR
REFORMING THE TREATY; B) HE AGREES THAT THE WORDING OF A RESOLUTION
HOWEVER PHRASED MUST EXPRESS THE CONCEPT THAT MEMBERS ARE FREE
TO RENEW RELATIONS OR NOT AS THEY WISH; HE OF COURSE PREFERS
HIS WORDING TO THE VIGNES FORMULA BECAUSE HE THINKS IT IS CLEARER
IN THAT REGARD. C) HE HAS NO PROBLEM WITH FACIO'S PROCEDURAL IDEA
OF CONVOKING THE COUNCIL AT THE LAST MINUTE IN SAN JOSE; D)
HE AGREES THAT THE RESOLUTION SHOULD PLACE STRONG EMPHASIS ON
NONINTERVENTION FOR THE REASONS CITED. HE DOES NOT THINK, HOWEVER,
THAT IT SHOULD SINGLE CUBA OUT, BUT RATHER EMPHASIZE THE PRINCIPLE
OF NONINTERVENTION THE MEANING OF WHICH WOULD BE CLEAR.

4. LIEVANO SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH FACIO AND HE WOULD SEEK
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DRAFTING OF A RESOLUTION. IN THIS REGARD
HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE "WHEREAS" CLAUSES WILL BE IMPORTANT
TO US. HE SAID THAT IF YOU WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH A DRAFT OF
A RESOLUTION WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADOPTED HE WOULD MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO SEE THAT IT OR ITS MAIN POINTS ARE IN THE FINAL DRAFT
RESOLUTION. I SAID I WOULD TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, SANCTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA06213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0194
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacvqv.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 158657
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, CO, CU, US, OAS, (VAKY, VIRON), (LIEVVANO AGUIRRE, INDALECIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006